

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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ANADROMOUS FISH CONSERVATION PROGRAM ENTERS NEW PHASE JULY 1

The nation's anadromous fishes, those species such as salmon that ascend streams and enter lakes from the sea to spawn, will get increased benefits from a four-year extension of the Anadromous Fish Conservation Program, which begins July 1.

Under legislation which amended the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act of 1965, Congress authorized appropriations up to \$6 million for fiscal year 1971, \$7.5 million for 1972, \$8.5 million for 1973, and \$10 million for 1974 in this program--a total of \$32 million dollars. This would amount to \$7 million more than was provided over the past four years.

Under the new program, the Federal share of project costs can be increased from 50 percent to a maximum of 60 percent when two or more States having a common interest in any basin enter into a cooperative agreement with Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel.

The program is administered by both agencies of the Fish and Wildlife Service--the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

Commissioner Charles H. Meacham pointed out that "Man has polluted the streams and estuaries, built impassible barriers, and generally damaged the environment of anadromous fish. Their abundance has been sharply reduced and some entire runs have been destroyed. Federal-State cooperation is helping to reduce losses, develop new runs, and increase existing stocks in some areas."

The Act applies to anadromous species as well as to those fish of the Great Lakes which ascend streams to spawn. These include Atlantic salmon, five species of Pacific salmon, shad, striped bass, Dolly Varden, Arctic char, cutthroat trout, steelhead trout, sheefish, river herrings, and three species of sturgeon.

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